

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/RPP:JMO'GRADY:KJB

APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL

ARA/PAN:JHAAHR (PARA 2)

S/AB:DHPOPPER (PARA 2)

ARA/PPC:LEINAUDI (PARA 1)

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SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 16-22, 1978

1. BUREAU MEETING WITH SECRETARY: AMBASSADOR
TODMAN, ARA DEPUTIES BUSHNELL, MCNEIL, ARELLANO, AND
SHELTON, AND PPC DIRECTOR EINAUDI MET WITH SECRETARY
VANCE, DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, AND DEPUTY UNDER
SECRETARY READ FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF. THEY DISCUSSED
AND REAFFIRMED THE PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED AS THE RESULT
OF OUR COM CONFERENCE, CONCENTRATING ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
SECURITY, AND TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT. THE TWO MEETINGS
COMBINED DISCUSSIONS OF OVERALL APPROACH AND PRACTICAL
IMPLEMENTING PROBLEMS IN AN EXTREMELY USEFUL MANNER.
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AMBASSADOR TODMAN BRIEFED OFFICE DIRECTORS ON MONDAY
AND WILL DISCUSS THE MEETINGS IN HIS NEXT MONTHLY
LETTER TO AMBASSADORS.

2. PANAMA CANAL SENATE DEBATE: THE DECONCINI RESER-
VATION TO THE NEUTRALITY TREATY SPELLING OUT U.S.
RIGHTS TO TAKE ANY ACTION, INCLUDING MILITARY ACTION,

TO OPEN THE CANAL IN THE EVENT OF CLOSURE FOR ANY REASON AFTER 2000, WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO GET THE NEEDED VOTES LAST THURSDAY. AS EXPECTED, THE

RESERVATION WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED IN PANAMA. IT TOOK US VERY CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF PANAMANIAN REJECTION OF THE TREATIES. THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA FINALLY DECIDED TO WITHHOLD FINAL JUDGEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY WAS DEBATED AND VOTED ON BY THE SENATE. GENERAL TORRIJOS EXPRESSED THIS VIEW IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER. WE BELIEVE THAT PANAMA WILL NOT SCUTTLE THE TREATIES OVER DECONCINI'S RESERVATION ALONE. IN GENERAL LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS FROM WHICH WE HAVE HEARD FAVOR PANAMANIAN RESTRAINT IN VIEW OF THE OVERALL ADVANTAGES PANAMA WILL STILL GAIN FROM THE TREATIES. THE DEBATE ON THE CANAL TREATY SEEMS TO BE HEATING UP. IT WILL CONTINUE TO TEST PANAMANIAN FOREBEARANCE, BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT MAJOR RESERVATIONS CAN BE AVOIDED THIS TIME. THE QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER WE CAN HOLD ON TO 67 VOTES. IF WE CAN, THE PROSPECTS ARE THAT THE PACKAGE WILL EVENTUALLY BE ACCEPTED, RELUCTANTLY, IN PANAMA.

3. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: THE INTER-AGENCY GROUP MET AS SCHEDULED AND GAVE ITS FINAL APPROVAL TO THE GOALS
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AND OBJECTIVES IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARIES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND DOD CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF THE AMBASSADOR OVER MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN PANAMA STEMMING FROM THE CHANGED RELATIONSHIPS IN THE WAKE OF THE NEW CANAL TREATIES, ALL OTHER ISSUES WERE RESOLVED. THE PANAMA PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE SETTLED AT OTHER LEVELS AND IN OTHER FORA. THE CHILE PAPER WAS NOT CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING BUT IS NOW BEING PREPARED AND WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR INTER-AGENCY REVIEW. WE ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF PREPARING THE FINAL VERSIONS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE NSC. 8ESKS WILL BE PROVIDING COPIES OF THE APPROVED TEXTS TO POSTS.

4. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: ON MARCH 15 ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN MET WITH HIGH WORLD BANK OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NOW SCHEDULED FOR LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE; AND ON MARCH 20 THERE WAS A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR TODMAN AND

ABELARDO VALDEZ, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR AND DEPUTY
U.S. COORDINATOR FOR A.I.D. IN ARA, TO DISCUSS STRATEGY

FOR THE WORLD BANK MEETING. THREE OF THE FOUR SPONSORING
IFI'S (IBRD, IDB, AND CDB) ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE MAJOR
PROGRAM PROPOSALS AT THE MEETING. THE IBRD IS EXPECTED
TO PROPOSE AN EFFORT TO MEET SOME LOCAL CURRENCY
COSTS OF PROJECTS OTHERWISE FUNDED INTERNATIONALLY,
AND ALSO TO HELP WITH THE PROBLEM OF COST OVERRUNS.
THE IDB IS EXPECTED TO PROPOSE AN EXPANSION OF ITS
FACILITY FOR FINANCING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, AND THE
CDB WILL PROPOSE A SPECIAL FUND FOR LOANS TO MEET
BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. WE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY PARTI-
CIPATING IN SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS, AT LEAST IN
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THEIR PRESENT FORM, BUT WE CAN PROBABLY USE OUR
ASSISTANCE TO COMPLEMENT OR SUPPLEMENT THEM. A.I.D.
HAS AGREED TO REVIEW OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND
PLANS IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING
MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO THE CARIBBEAN GROUP CONCEPT,
AND WILL ALSO BE DOING THE BULK OF THE STAFF WORK
IN PREPARATION FOR THE WORLD BANK MEETING. BETWEEN
NOW AND THE DATE OF THE MEETING, JOINT STATE/A.I.D.
TEAMS ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT MOST CAPITALS IN THE
CARIBBEAN AREA TO EXPLAIN OUR APPROACH AND COORDI-
NATE POSITIONS. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ON
PROPOSED DATES AND ITINERARIES. IN ADDITION, WE
EXPECT TO COORDINATE OUR VIEWS CLOSELY WITH THOSE
OF OTHER DONORS IN PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING.

5. PERU-JAMAICA CRISES: THESE TWO COUNTRIES, AS
IS GENERALLY APPRECIATED BY NOW, FACE SERIOUS
IMMEDIATE EXTERNAL FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. BOTH ARE
HAVING THEIR DIFFICULTIES WITH THE IMF. WE ARE
BUSILY ENGAGED IN PREPARING RECOMMENDATIONS
CONCERNING USG POLICY OPTIONS, BEARING IN MIND
THE DIFFERENCES IN THE TWO SITUATIONS.

6. SEMINAR ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: A SEMINAR
ON THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS WILL BE HELD IN THE BUREAU
ON MARCH 27 AND 29. THE AIM IS TO PROVIDE BUREAU
OFFICERS PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE STRUCTURE
AND FUNCTIONING OF CONGRESS, SO AS TO FACILITATE
CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS. SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS
DOUGLAS BENNET, A PANEL OF CONGRESSIONAL STAFFERS,
AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WHO HAVE WORKED ON THE
HILL OR WHOSE PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES GIVE THEM
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INSIGHT INTO CONGRESSIONAL OPERATIONS AND ATTITUDES. VANCE

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